

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 SSO-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 /031 W

----- 049127

O R 060955Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5607

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 5373

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, SA

SUBJ: CODEL ABOUREZK

REF: STATE 237959

1. AMBASSADOR AKINS WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK AND EMBASSY CERTAIN THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES SAG WOULD GO ALL OUT TO MAKE VISIT AS USEFUL AS POSSIBLE.

2. DATES PROPOSED FOR CODEL (JANUARY 5-8) HOWEVER COINCIDE WITH HIGH HOLY DAYS MARKING END OF MONTH OF PILGRIMAGE. HOLIDAYS EXTEND FROM DECEMBER 29 TO JANUARY 8 AND ARE HIGH POINT OF MUSLIM RELIGIOUS YEAR. DURING THIS SEASON MORE THAN 1 MILLION 500 THOUSAND PILGRIMS CONGREGATE IN MECCA, ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE CLOSED, AND KING AND VIRTUALLY ALL TOP OFFICIALS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED IN MECCA WITH CHIEFS OF STATE AND OTHER VIPS

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FROM MUSLIM COUNTRIES. (ONLY MUSLIMS ARE PERMITTED

WITHIN PRECINCTS OF MECCA.)

3. SHOULD SENATOR PLAN TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA (PROBABLY JIDDA) DURING DAYS PROPOSED REFTTEL, EMBASSY WOULD OF COURSE FURNISH HIM WITH DETAILED BRIEFING. ALTERNATIVELY, SENATOR MIGHT WISH TO RE-ARRANGE SCHEDULE SO AS TO COME TO JIDDA LATER AND--DURING PERIOD OF HIGH HOLY DAYS--VISIT SOME OTHER ARAB CAPITAL WHERE THEIR IMPACT IS LESS DRASTIC.
AKINS

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NNN

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